



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

19 September 2005

National Ocean Service

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

Last bulletin: September 15, 2005

Conditions: A harmful algal bloom has been identified from northern Pinellas to southern Collier County. Today through Thursday patchy very low to low impacts are possible in Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota, Lee and Collier Counties. A harmful algal bloom has also been identified in the Florida Panhandle from Bay County east to Levy County. Patchy very low impacts are possible in Bay, Gulf, Franklin, Dixie and Levy Counties today through Wednesday, with increased low impacts possible in Bay, Gulf and Franklin Counties on Thursday. Dead fish have been reported from Sanibel and Fort Myers Beach in Lee County, Cedar Key in Levy County and Crooked Island Sound in Franklin County over the past few days. Dead fish smell, while unpleasant, does not produce the same respiratory irritation as red tide.

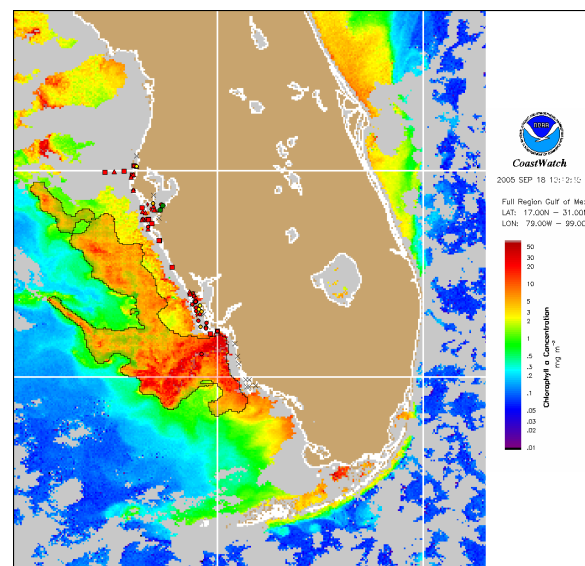
Analysis: The ongoing bloom persists along the coast of southwest Florida, extending onshore from northern Pinellas County to southern Collier County. Satellite imagery indicates the bloom has expanded further offshore and southward in Lee and Collier Counties since September 15, while chlorophyll levels have weakened offshore from southern Pinellas to southern Sarasota County. Sampling results provided by the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) indicate increased *K. brevis* concentrations (now medium) in Collier County at Marco Island and at the mouth of Tampa Bay (medium to high). High *K. brevis* concentrations were also found approx. 80 miles offshore of Hernando County. The bloom has expanded onshore approximately 15km to the south (25°43'N, 81°45'W) since September 15 and offshore approximately 32km (25°50'N, 82°35'W) according to satellite imagery and a wind transport model. A high chlorophyll patch up to 19 µg/L is located offshore Sarasota at 27°12'N, 83°10'W. The northern region of the bloom is presently obscured by clouds. Dead fish

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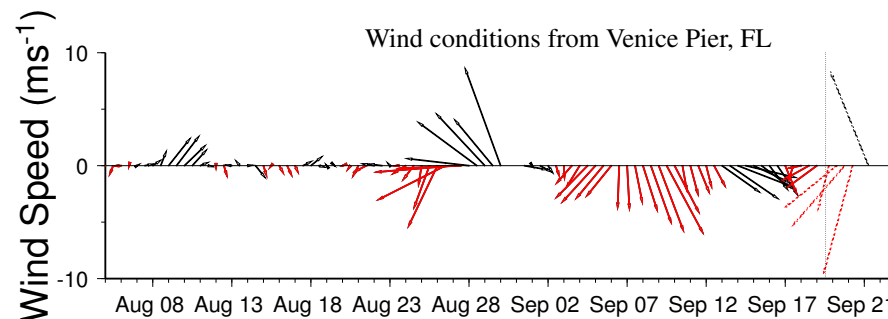
1. These data are restricted to civil marine applications only; i.e. federal, state, and local government use/distribution is permitted.
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continued to be reported in Pinellas and Lee County over the past few days. Offshore winds will likely minimize effects at the beach through Thursday; however upwelling conditions may intensify the bloom along the coast. Reports of discolored water are likely. Continued southern transport and/or expansion of the bloom is expected.

~Fisher, Bronder

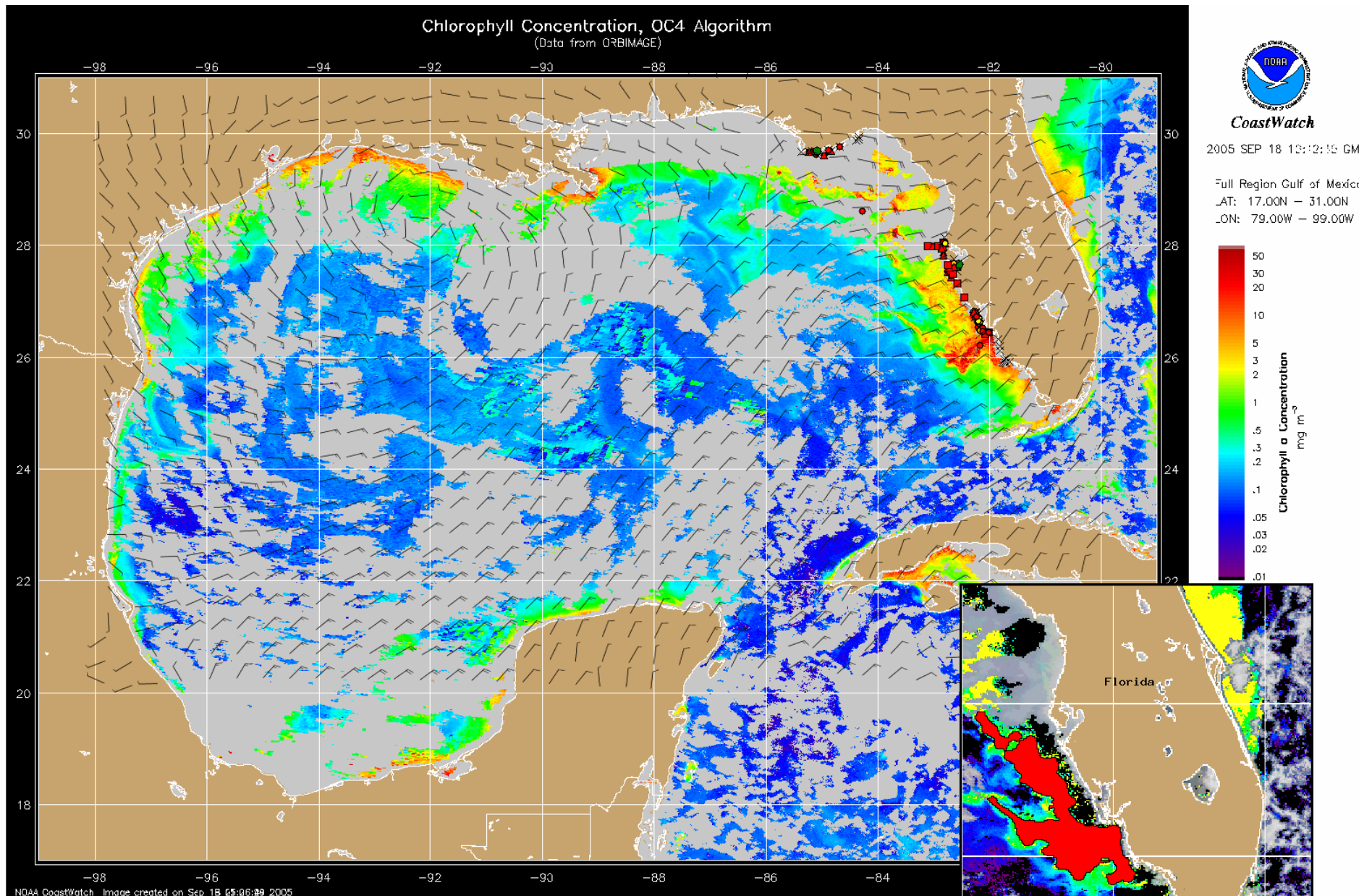


Chlorophyll concentration from satellite with HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from September 9, 2005 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from measurements made on buoys. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

SW Florida: Moderate northeasterlies today (10-15kts, 5-8 m/s) strengthening to 15-20kts (8-10m/s) through Tuesday night. From Englewood to Bonita Beach expect stronger 20-25 knots (10-13m/s) northeasterlies Tuesday. Easterly winds (15-20kts, 8-10 m/s) Wednesday through Thursday, with southeasterlies (10-15kts, 5-8m/s) Wednesday night from Tarpon Springs to Englewood.



Chlorophyll concentration from satellite and forecast winds for September 20, 2005 06Z with cell concentration sampling data from September 9, 2005 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).

Blooms shown in red (see p. 1 analysis)